

AMERICA'S PROMISE

THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH®

September 24, 2004

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
United States House of Representatives
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hoyer:

I write to voice our strong support for the Full Service Community Schools Act (H.R. 4585) you introduced on June 16, 2004. The Board of Directors of America's Promise shares your vision of catalyzing and sustaining more efforts in communities around the nation that provide the full-range of supports, services and opportunities that children, youth and their families need to thrive.

As you know, America's Promise was founded in April 1997 when Presidents Clinton, Bush, Carter, and Ford and Mrs. Reagan representing President Reagan came together in Philadelphia to challenge the nation to mobilize resources from all sectors and individuals to help build the character and competence of children and youth. They set forth Five Promises as the birthright of every child in our country, and called us all to deliver them:

1. Caring adults in their lives, as parents, mentors, tutors and coaches
2. Safe places with structured activities in which to learn and grow
3. A healthy start and healthy future
4. An effective education that equips them with marketable skills
5. An opportunity to give back to their communities through their own service.

Community schools are the embodiment of this work. They build partnerships across sectors to leverage communities' assets. They coordinate the delivery of services and programs, making them more efficient and effective. They aim to meet the needs of the whole child and the whole family. And they serve children and their families in and through the schools – where they live, learn and play.

We call on Congress to support your good legislation to authorize funding for full-service community schools. They are just the kind of collaborative community efforts we need to fulfill the promise of our great nation.

Thank you for your continued leadership.

With warm regards,



C. Gregg Petersmeyer
Vice Chair

